

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 5 and 23 - 32.

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 22.

1. (currently amended) A method for producing bent snowmobile studs, the method comprising:

providing a stud having a head and substantially straight shank;

providing a head engagement member for holding the head relative to the shank;

providing a shank engagement member for contacting the shank;

engaging the stud head with ~~the~~ said head engagement ~~member,~~ member, engaging the shank with ~~the~~ said shank engagement member; and

mechanically moving the head engagement member and the shank engagement member with respect to one another such that the shank is ~~bent-~~ bent, wherein a plurality of the studs are provided and said head engagement member engages a plurality of the stud heads, said shank engagement member engages the plurality of the shanks and the plurality of the shanks being bent when said head engagement member is moved with respect to said shank engagement member.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the bent shank defines proximal and distal axes, the proximal and distal axes forming an angle between about 15° and 30°.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the proximal and distal axes form an angle between about 20° and 25°.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the shank includes threads and wherein the threads remain useful after bending.

Claim 5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the head engagement member is fixed and ~~the~~ said shank engagement member is movable with respect to ~~the~~ said head engagement member.

Claims 7 - 20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a bent stud being produced thereby.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the bent stud is one of the plurality of ~~multiple~~ bent studs produced by mechanically moving ~~the~~ said head engagement member and ~~the~~ said shank engagement member with respect to one another at a single time.

Claims 23 - 32 (canceled)

Please add claims 33 - 48.

33. (new) A method for producing bent snowmobile studs, the method comprising:

providing a stud having a head and substantially straight shank;

providing a head engagement member for holding the head relative to the shank;

providing a shank engagement member for contacting the shank, pivotally engaging said shank engagement member with said head engagement member; and

engaging the stud head with said head engagement member, engaging the shank with said shank engagement member; and

mechanically moving the head engagement member and the shank engagement member with respect to one another such that the shank is bent, removing said engagement member and said engagement member from the stud.

34. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein the bent shank defines proximal and distal axes, the proximal and distal axes forming an angle between about 15° and 30°.

35. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein the proximal and distal axes form an angle between about 20° and 25°.

36. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein the shank includes threads and wherein the threads remain useful after bending.

37. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein a plurality of the studs are provided and said head engagement member engages a plurality of the stud heads, said shank engagement member engages the plurality of the shanks and the plurality of the shanks being bent when said head engagement member is moved with respect to said shank engagement member.

38. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein the head engagement member is fixed and said shank engagement member is movable with respect to said head engagement member.

39. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein a bent stud being produced thereby.

40. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein the bent stud is one of the plurality of bent studs produced by mechanically moving said head engagement member and said shank engagement member with respect to one another at a single time.

41. (new) A method for producing bent snowmobile studs, the method comprising:

providing a stud having a head and substantially straight shank;

providing a head engagement member for holding the head relative to the shank;

providing a shank engagement member for contacting the shank; and

engaging the stud head with said head engagement member, engaging the shank with said shank engagement member; and

mechanically moving the head engagement member and the shank engagement member with respect to one another such that the shank is bent, removing said engagement member and said engagement member from the stud.

42. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the bent shank defines proximal and distal axes, the proximal and distal axes forming an angle between about 15° and 30°.

43. (new) The method of claim 42 wherein the proximal and distal axes form an angle between about 20° and 25°.

44. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the shank includes threads and wherein the threads remain useful after bending.

45. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein a plurality of the studs are provided and said head engagement member engages a plurality of the stud heads, said shank engagement member engages the plurality of the shanks and the plurality of the shanks being bent when said head engagement member is moved with respect to said shank engagement member.

46. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the head engagement member is fixed and said shank engagement member is movable with respect to said head engagement member.

47. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein a bent stud being produced thereby.

48. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the bent stud is one of the plurality of bent studs produced by mechanically moving said head engagement member and said shank engagement member with respect to one another at a single time.